

The Crucible, Act II, by Arthur Miller
Selection Test B

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- ____ 1. What is the setting of Act II of *The Crucible*?
 - A. the following day at the home of John and Elizabeth Proctor
 - B. Reverend Parris's home, about a week after the accusations of witchcraft have begun
 - C. the Proctors' home, eight days after the girls have begun to accuse people
 - D. the Salem meeting house, just before Abigail's trial

- ____ 2. Which of the following sentences best describes the relationship between John and Elizabeth Proctor at the opening of Act II?
 - A. They are warm and affectionate.
 - B. They seem not to care about each other.
 - C. They seem ill at ease together.
 - D. They are hostile and bitter toward each other.

- ____ 3. When Elizabeth says to Proctor, "The magistrate sits in your heart that judges you," she means that Proctor
 - A. carries the knowledge of his own guilt.
 - B. is too quick to judge himself.
 - C. should speak more openly about his thoughts.
 - D. knows that she loves him and forgives him.

- ____ 4. Proctor's comment to Mary Warren, "It's strange work for a Christian girl to hang old women," implies that he thinks/Mary's behavior is
 - A. cruel.
 - B. hypocritical.
 - C. cowardly.
 - D. rash.

- ____ 5. Which of the following words best characterizes Mary Warren?
 - A. pious
 - B. jealous
 - C. gullible
 - D. vicious

- ____ 6. What is Mary's motive in giving the "poppet" to Elizabeth?
 - A. She wants to make friends with Elizabeth.
 - B. She wants Elizabeth to see her as an innocent girl.
 - C. She wants to plant evidence of witchcraft in Elizabeth's house.
 - D. She wants to make peace with Elizabeth after disobeying her.

- ___ 7. When Mary says that the crowd parted for Abigail like the sea for Israel, she makes
- a comparison to politics.
 - an allusion to the Bible.
 - eventual trouble for Abigail.
 - a bigoted joke.
- ___ 8. When Hale appears at the Proctors' door, he is described as "different now—drawn a little, and there is a quality of deference, even of guilt, about his manner now." What accounts for this change?
- He has seen events go beyond his expectations in Salem.
 - He no longer believes in witchcraft but must proceed.
 - He feels guilty that he has also felt desire for Abigail.
 - He fears that even he may be at risk.
- ___ 9. Hale's interview with Proctor reveals Hale to be
- blinded by power.
 - troubled but rigid.
 - kind but foolish.
 - tolerant and open.
- ___ 10. Why does Proctor forget the commandment forbidding adultery?
- He has a guilty conscience.
 - He has never properly learned the commandments.
 - He believes that it is an unjust commandment.
 - He is afraid of revealing his own sin.
- ___ 11. When Rebecca Nurse is charged, Hale is troubled. What does he intend to point out by this allusion to the story that the Devil was once an angel?
- an hour before the Devil fell, God thought him beautiful in Heaven.
- that people sometimes change as they get older
 - that even beauty is no indicator of goodness
 - the impossibility of determining God's will
 - the powerful skills of deception the Devil has
- ___ 12. In anger, Proctor calls Hale "Pontius Pilate." Proctor's intention is to
- imply that Hale shares pagan beliefs.
 - charge Hale with manufacturing evidence.
 - send Hale to the Bible for study and thought.
 - accuse Hale of doing injustice by doing nothing.
- ___ 13. Proctor believes that Abigail accuses Elizabeth of witchcraft because
- Elizabeth treated Abigail harshly.
 - Abigail wants to punish Proctor for rejecting her.
 - Abigail fears that Elizabeth will denounce her for seducing Proctor.
 - Abigail wants to distract attention from the episode in the woods.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 14. If one does something *avidly*, one does it
 A. eagerly.
 B. shamefully.
 C. quickly.
 D. reluctantly.
- ___ 15. If one shows *deference*, one shows
 A. ignorance.
 B. disregard.
 C. respect.
 D. knowledge.
- ___ 16. Introductory words in sentences should be
 A. set off by commas.
 B. punctuated as if they were separate sentences.
 C. avoided.
 D. enclosed in quotation marks.
- ___ 17. Which sentence is punctuated *incorrectly*?
 A. Well, one may always wonder about the appearance of evil.
 B. Yes there is a modern point to the play.
 C. No historical records exist that contain dialogue.
 D. Of course, reasonable conjecture seems fair enough.

Essay

18. Abigail Williams does not appear in Act II, but she has cast a long shadow from Act I, and her importance in Act II is powerful. Write an essay in which you tell about the significance of Abigail Williams in Act II, explaining her effect on characters and actions in this part of the play.
19. In Act II, Mary Warren gives Elizabeth Proctor a doll, a “poppet,” which she says is a present. The shifts in blame surrounding the doll become a major factor in the actions of Act II. How does Miller use this token to create drama? Write an essay that explains the role of the poppet in the plot. Include how it is viewed, the plot developments surrounding it, and what characters do and don’t know about the real responsibility for it.
20. One pivotal character in Act II has an apparently weak character as a human being. What motivates Mary Warren throughout this part of the play? What does she want? How is it that she becomes such a focal point? Write an essay in which you assess the nature of Mary Warren as she appears in Act II, and explain how her character illustrates some of the play’s concerns. Use examples from the play to support your ideas.